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NPA RAIDS IN SAMAR PROVINCES NET 59 MORE ENEMY FIREARMS

Units of the New People's Army in the Eastern Visayas entered four towns on Samar island last April and May, raided enemy installations there and confiscated many more enemy firearms.

In these raids and in other recent tactical offensives of the NPA and Samar's revolutionary masses, the people's army accounted for 59 firearms, 42 of them rifles and the rest .38-caliber revolvers and pistols. They also confiscated two hand grenades and enemy equipment that included two radio transceivers.

The Red fighters did not suffer a single casualty when they raided the enemy installations in the towns of Gamay and Mapanas, Northern Samar, last April 11, the town of Silvino Lobos in the same province last May 13, and the town of Matuginao, Western Samar, on that same day.

The guerrilla raids were so well planned and well executed that the Red fighters had no need to fire their guns, except in Silvino Lobos when the combined PC-INP-CHDF force in the town decided to put up a battle. Of the 10-man enemy force, seven were killed, two were wounded and one surrendered.

The first raid--the one in Gamay--took place at 3 a.m. last April 11. Disguised as enemy soldiers, the Red fighters surprised the local policemen and CHDF members sleeping in the municipal hall and at once disarmed them. They were in complete control within five minutes.

Accompanied by their captives, the Red fighters roused the other policemen sleeping in their respective homes and similarly disarmed them.

In their conversations with the policemen and CHDF members, the people's guerrillas explained the goal of the revolutionary movement led by the Communist Party of the Philippines: the liberation of the Filipino people from U.S. imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism.

The government men were also assured that they have nothing to fear from the NPA for as long as they do not abuse the people.

Forty minutes after quietly entering the town, the Red fighters slipped out just as quietly. "Mabuhay ang mga kasama!" (Long live comrades!) was the parting message they got from the policemen and CHDF members who were their captives just moments before.

The town slept throughout the raid.

The Mapanas raid

The raid on the PC-INP-CHDF force in Mapanas took place at 5 o'clock that same morning, with the Red fighters using the same tactic but with a variation. They posed as enemy troops with some "captured" NPA fighters. Before the government forces could find out the ruse, the Red fighters had their guns trained on them.

They gave warnings to those of the government men against whom the people have grievances, and advised them to reform.

At daybreak, the NPA raiders invited the townspeople to a meeting and discussed with them the aims of the national democratic revolution. There was rejoicing among the people, especially the poor, when they learned that the revolution is advancing not only in Samar but throughout the country.

The Red fighters sang revolutionary songs, applied acupuncture treatment on some ailing townspeople, and distributed revolutionary literature, including copies of Larab, mass newspaper in the Eastern Visayas region.

They left Mapanas three hours and eight minutes after entering it. Shouts of "Mabuhay ang Bagong Hukbong Bayan!" resounded as the people's guerrillas took leave and marched out.

In the raids on Gamay and Mapanas, the Red fighters confiscated nine M-1 Garand rifles, eight M-1 carbines, an M-2 carbine, a Thompson submachine-gun, 10 .38-caliber revolvers, plenty of ammunition, and a radio transceiver.

The raids on the enemy forces in Silvino Lobos and Matuginao took place simultaneously at around 3:30 a.m. May 13.

While the Red fighters and the people's militia who reinforced them had to suppress the PC-INP-CHDF force in Silvino Lobos with gunfire, however, they did not have to fire a single shot in Matuginao.

Despotic mayor warned

Silvino Lobos' despotic mayor, Genaro Yamamoto, surrendered after his 10-man armed group had been wiped out.

Yamamoto had been hated by the people, especially the peasants and the town's poor, because of his many crimes. He had been intimidating, beating up and imprisoning peasants and other people, stealing public funds intended for barrio improvement, and waging counter-revolutionary campaigns.

He would have been executed but was let off with a stern warning after he publicly admitted his crimes and promised to reform. His surrender was also taken into account.

At the start of the firing in Silvino Lobos, the townspeople dove into shelters that Yammoto had urged them to dig. The mayor had spread false propaganda against the NPA, causing the people to fear their own army.

Their worries disappeared at a mass meeting called by the Red fighters. They were particularly impressed by the conscious discipline they saw in the NPA.

At the mass meetings in both Silvino Lobos and Matuginao, the Red fighters recited revolutionary poetry, sang revolutionary songs and distributed printed propaganda.

They did their best to integrate with the townspeople of Silvino Lobos during the seven hours they were there, and 10 hours with the townspeople of Matuginao.

In Silvino Lobos, they confiscated five Armalite rifles, three Garands, two shotguns, three revolvers, two handgrenades, ammunition, a radio transceiver and two typewriters. In Matuginao, they accounted for three Garands, three M-1 carbines, three revolvers and ammunition.

The raids on the PC-INP-CHDF forces in the four towns call to mind similar tactical offensives launched by the NPA in the towns of Arteche and San Policarpio, Eastern Samar, on June 9, 1977. In those twin operations, the Red fighters seized 17 enemy firearms, including eight Garands and three carbines.

The success of these operations speaks well of the careful planning and split-second implementation by Party cadres and Red fighters. But more than this, it shows that they have given due attention to solid ideological, political and organisational work among the masses of Samar, especially those in the countrysides.

In the recent raids, the peasant masses not only provided their fighters with shelter and intelligence and communications support. Their local militia actually participated in some of the operations.

Other arms confiscations

Other recent incidents show the masses' boldness, initiative and dedication to the revolution. In barrio San Miguel, Catubig, Northern Samar, last March 26, three peasant youth seized two M-1 Garands and a .38-caliber revolver while the local CHDF members and their PC supervisors were enjoying themselves at a barrio dance.

Elsewhere in Northern Samar, another peasant ran off with an M-1 Garand, also belonging to a CHDF member.

All these have been turned over to the NPA, adding further to the firepower of the people's army.

One other operation that netted the NPA more arms was the raid on the Artecho National Agricultural School (ANAS) in barrio Libon, Artecho, last March 29. Red fighters seized two Armalite-style .22-caliber rifles, an ordinary .22-caliber rifle, a shotgun, 64 shotgun shells and 92 .22-caliber bullets.

An abusive teacher had been using the firearms to intimidate students and otherwise endangering the safety of the barrio people.

* * *

REGIME HAS MONEY TO SPEND, BUT NOT ON YOUTH'S EDUCATION

There were not enough teachers and classrooms, no books were available and tuition fees had gone up again--these problems confronted students, teachers and parents as schools opened all over the Philippines last June 13.

More than 8 million pupils enrolled in the elementary schools, with more than 3 million in the secondary schools, and 940,000 students in the colleges and universities.

As usual, the reactionary government had no money to spend for the education to which all the Filipino people have a right.

No funds were released to hire more teachers (4,475 were needed to teach new Grade 1 classes alone). There were no new classrooms built, and neither were repairs made on old ones that had been damaged during the last typhoons (₱212.5 million was supposed to be set aside for this but no one saw a single centavo of it).

In fact, the reactionary government claims to have a ₱4-billion budget this year for education. But almost the entire amount of the budget, or 90 percent, is spent on administrative expenses, according to a study made by the World Bank. But according to the regime's Ministry of Education and Culture (MEC), the reactionary government is allegedly spending ₱4,000 a year on each student in the public schools!

Public funds are spent chiefly on the strengthening of the fascist military, show-off infrastructure projects, repayment of foreign debts, and of course large amounts go into the pockets of the Marcos clique. Very little money indeed is left to spend in order to assure the youth of an education.

After only three or four years of primary schooling, many children have to stop attending classes because of extreme poverty. The 1975 national census shows that only 23 percent of all children 11 to 13 years, or those who should have completed the elementary grades, actually finished Grade 6.

Still "no read, no write"

And only 43 percent of the pupils who had completed Grade 6 could read, write and do simple arithmetic, according to the regime itself. In other words, almost half of all the children were still "no read, no write" (in the popular expression) after six years of schooling.

But the regime blames the people for this, and not itself. It alleges that the teachers are incompetent, that they should use more teaching aids, and that the children of the poor are not very bright anyway.

In school, the pupils hear nothing but praise for the "New Society" and the Marcos couple. "President Marcos is the father of our country. Mrs. Marcos is the mother of our country." Such are the sentences that the child first learns to read.

Obviously, the "knowledge" dispensed under the "New Society" is far from the truth, and counter to the people's own interests. It isn't surprising therefore that the pupils can remember nothing of what is being taught to them, while the teachers are fed up with teaching.

School opening came around with still no funds being released to pay for the salary increases promised to more than 350,000 public elementary school teachers and their immediate superiors. Similarly, 29,000 public high school teachers were waiting to receive the increases they had been promised.

What's more, the teachers were even rapped by the regime for allegedly complaining endlessly about their low pay. Felicita Bernardino, MEC deputy minister, admitted that no funds were available. What they ought to do, she told a group of teachers, is plant vegetables or raise some pigs and chickens if they are unable to live on their salaries.

And another blow came with the recent discovery of the loss of funds totalling ₱32 million, to which 200,000 members of the Philippine Public School Teachers Association (PPSTA) had been contributing in the hope of having a little money upon their retirement. Persons close to the Marcos oligue were able to get their hands on the money, and were helped to escape to the United States after their exposure. Meanwhile, Marcos directed his uncle, Juan Manuel, who is his minister for education, to personally cover up the scandal.

Increased tuition fees

Meanwhile, only 7 percent of college students are able to enroll in state universities and colleges. The rest, 93 percent, are forced to continue their studies in private schools charging bigger and bigger tuition and other fees.

The truth is that owners of private schools have been allowed to raise their fees even without informing the regime beforehand. Even as these capitalists were squeezing away--students are being made to pay an additional 10 to 15 percent and more this year--the regime only made a hypocritical appeal, through Manuel, for them to "refrain from imposing unreasonable tuition fee increases".

It is not only through the tuition fees that the education capitalists victimize students and their parents. They also charge excessive amounts for uniforms, IDs, laboratory and other facilities that oftentimes simply don't exist, and for other questionable fees and "donations".

On the other hand, the regime's educational system, particularly at the collegiate level, ensures the training of a steady and increasing supply of skilled but underpaid workers for imperialist and comprador enterprises in the Philippines.

Today, every high school graduate wanting to enter college must have passed the National College Entrance Examination or NCEE. The passing mark

has been raised in successive years. The aim is to limit the number of those taking up academic studies, so that more will enroll in vocational courses, thus assuring a large pool of manpower for imperialist and comprador enterprises.

(Speaking of the NCEE, the incompetence of the National Intelligence and Security Agency or NISA--one of the regime's major agencies concerned with counter-revolutionary espionage--was again brought to light last month. NISA took charge of computing the grades. But until the schoolyear reopened, at least 92,000 scores had not yet been released because of mistakes made by the NISA's computer. It is on the basis of such mistaken information and analysis that the fascist regime harasses, picks up and tortures countless persons.)

At the same time that schools are big commercial enterprises and training centers for the manpower needs of imperialism, they have been incorporated into the U.S.-Marcos dictatorship's apparatus for political repression.

Suppressing democratic rights

Students and teachers are denied the right to freely study and inquire into significant topics, like the present state of Philippine society. The right to freely form associations is also denied, whether to students, teachers or school employes. Teachers may not strike in defense of their rights. Campuses teem with enemy agents, and school administrators are made to assume responsibility for stopping mass activism.

If only a few students get to college, fewer still are able to finish their courses. Because they can't afford to go on studying, most are forced to stop and take any job they can find--construction worker, cargo truck loader, door-to-door peddler, sidewalk vendor--jobs for which they would have been considered unsuitable in the past, because of their education.

According to the same 1975 national census mentioned above, only 14.5 percent had finished high school of almost 3 million youths 16 to 18 years, or the age bracket when they should have completed the secondary course. And out of 1.7 million youths aged 20-21 years, belonging to the age bracket that should have finished college, only 2 percent had obtained their diplomas.

While the Philippine educational system remains a semicolonial one, and especially under the U.S.-Marcos fascist dictatorship, more and more young people are being frustrated in their efforts to get a good education.

But it is this same situation that is preparing them to wholeheartedly embrace the revolutionary cause, and to decide to commit to it their entire enthusiasm, strength and talent.

In the past, the revolutionary students and youth have made a big contribution to the national democratic movement, above all in conducting propaganda work among the basic masses of the people as well as the middle forces of the revolution.

At present, there is an even greater need for the masses of students and young people to participate in the people's war that keeps on advancing to a higher level. Tens of thousands of activists and revolutionary cadres must come forward from their ranks to take charge of urgent tasks both in their own sector and in all other fields of revolutionary activity.

In answer to the various problems facing them, the student and youth masses must launch a greater number of militant mass struggles. These mass struggles should always be linked up to the wider struggle involving other oppressed classes and sectors of society.

On the other hand, there is also a need to expand and consolidate the revolutionary underground among them, so that their efforts may directly serve the advancement of the armed people's democratic revolution.

'INDEPENDENCE DAY': MYTHS AND REALITY

The U.S.-Marcos fascist dictatorship staged another spectacle at the Luneta national park last June 12 in an effort to pass off two myths on the Filipino people.

One is the myth that the Philippines is independent, the other that the country is moving towards "national reconciliation and unity" by reason of the supposed capitulation of certain alleged top leaders of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

What was supposed to have been celebrated at the Luneta was the 81st anniversary of independence proclaimed by the liberal bourgeois Emilio Aguinaldo in Kawit, Cavite, on June 12, 1898.

The fact is that the Philippines did not attain full independence in 1898 and neither is it independent today. As for national reconciliation, there can be no such thing while the U.S.-Marcos fascist regime and the comprador-landlord interests it represents exist to exploit and oppress the people. There can be no reconciliation between exploiter and exploited, between oppressor and oppressed.

Going back to 1898, it is true that the revolutionary movement, under the leadership of the bourgeois ilustrados, or intellectuals, was then about to completely overthrow Spanish colonialism that had ruled the country for over 300 years.

But U.S. imperialism was then already on Philippine soil preparing to impose its own rule through its counter-revolutionary dual tactic of deception and brute force.

Aguinaldo was fooled by the U.S. imperialists. In his own proclamation of independence in Kawit, he called on "the protection of the Mighty and Humane North American Nation". In short, he regarded imperialism as the "protector" of Philippine independence.

U.S. war of aggression

In the following period, U.S. imperialism switched from its pretensions of friendship to force of arms. The Philippine-American war saw the Filipino people gallantly fighting a war of national liberation. But the invaders eventually prevailed, due in large measure to the vacillation, capitulationism and treachery of many of the revolution's liberal bourgeois leaders. Thus ended the national democratic revolution of the old type.

The Philippines came under direct U.S. imperialist rule until Japanese imperialist forces invaded the country and occupied it from 1941 to 1945, when U.S. imperialism returned and reoccupied it.

U.S. imperialism "granted" "independence" on July 4, 1946, but made certain that the country would remain its neocolony. This it succeeded in doing by concluding a string of military and economic treaties with a series of Filipino puppet presidents, from Roxas to Marcos.

It is imperialism that was principally responsible for imposing fascist martial law on September 21, 1972. It is imperialism that sustains the fascist regime to this day.

The extent of imperialist control over the fascist puppet Marcos regime is shown by the fact that the regime has thrown the country wide open to imperialist plunder. An example is the unending increase in gasoline prices decreed by the imperialist oil cartel.

It is pure nonsense to talk about full independence—in 1898 or in 1979. The Philippines will become truly independent only when U.S. imperialism and

its local comprador-landlord cohorts are smashed by the national democratic revolution of the new type advancing throughout the country. This revolution is led by the proletariat and not by the bourgeoisie.

As for the second myth--"national reconciliation and unity"--it can become reality only after the exploiters and oppressors have been overthrown and a people's democratic state firmly established.

"Rebels" on parade

A highlight of Marcos' "independence day" spectacle at the Luneta was the participation of "rebels" who marched in the parade.

One group of "rebels" was led by Luis Taruc, the traitor and scab who had wormed his own into the old merger party, and another described by the announcer as "500 top commanders of the MNLF".

In fact, Taruc, like the Lavaites who are his former co-conspirators, was repudiated by the people many years ago because of his opportunism, capitulation to the enemy, and open betrayal of the people. A members of Marcos' "Batasang Pambansa", Taruc is today one of those paid to deliver speeches and write in praise of the fascist regime.

As for the "MNLF top commanders" who were assembled and made to carry government-supplied firearms without bullets, these people are discards of the Moro people's revolutionary movement who surrendered to the regime years ago.

Like the puppets that they are, these traitors to the Moro people are trotted out by the regime from time to time in a futile effort to make the people believe that the Moros have given up their armed struggle for their right to self-determination.

The fascist puppet Marcos himself let the cat out of the bag when he admitted at his Luneta speech that the Moro capitulationists are now serving in the mercenary Armed Forces of the Philippines or have been appointed town mayors. This is their reward for betraying their own people.

These traitors, who were expelled by the MNLF long ago, are led by Abdul Khayr Alonto, Hussein Loong and Abdul Hamid Lukman, who almost stumbled upon one another in praising the fascist regime at the June 12 show.

Fake autonomy

Alonto and Loong are now members of Marcos' "sangguniang pampook" or "regional councils" in Region 9 (western Mindanao) and Region 12 (central Mindanao), while Lukman is assistant commissioner of Region 9. They looked ridiculous posing as "rebels".

For the captive mass media, Marcos made a big show of embracing and shaking hands with the "MNLF commanders" as he "accepted" the arms they were supposed to have surrendered but which were actually furnished by the AFP for the occasion.

Marcos then made another show of inducting into office the members of his two "regional councils" and proclaiming "autonomy" in western and central Mindanao.

The fascist puppet fooled nobody. Under the MNLF, the Moro people are persevering in their armed struggle for their right to self-determination and other democratic rights.

In fact, just three days before "independence day", the MNLF launched another tactical offensive, killing a member of Marcos' "regional council", Tomatio Aratuk, in Buldon, Maguindanao. The Moro people gave a sample of revolutionary justice that awaits others who have betrayed their cause.

No, there is no "reconciliation and unity" between the Moro people and the U.S.-Marcos fascist dictatorship. Neither can there be "reconciliation and unity" between the rest of the Filipino people and the fascist regime.

The contradiction between them--the Filipino people including Moro brothers on the one hand and on the other the U.S.-Marcos clique and the comprador-landlord classes behind it--will be resolved only by the people's democratic revolution raging throughout the country.

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CEBU'S TOILING MASSES STAGE MAY 1 MARCH-DEMONSTRATION

Workers and other toiling people boldly held a march-demonstration in Cebu City last May 1 in celebration of Labor Day.

Over 2,500 people militantly voiced their protest against worsening conditions under martial law. Bearing placards, they gathered at Plaza Independencia after marching through the streets of the Philippines' second largest urban center.

"This was a big victory," said the mass newspaper Larab, "for despite the U.S.-Marcos regime's strict prohibition of demonstrations, the poor and exploited classes courageously assembled to express their protest."

Their anger at the continuing price increases was aired by speakers who represented the workers, peasants, urban poor, students and progressive church people. They pointed out that at the root of the people's suffering is imperialist domination of the national economy, as shown by the latest increase in the prices of oil and gasoline, products which are refined and marketed in a worldwide monopoly by an imperialist cartel.

The people demanded the raising of the minimum wage for workers, the restoration of the right to strike, and an end to the demolition of the city's poor communities.

A group of young people presented a drama depicting the situation confronting the workers, urban poor and sidewalk vendors. The peasant delegation contributed revolutionary songs to the program.

On that day, as in many other cities and town centers all over the country (Ang Bayan, May 15, 1979), walls and fences in Cebu City displayed revolutionary calls painted or pasted on by the people.

Meanwhile, over 500 workers at the Zamboanga Wood Products staged a strike starting May 25 due to the company's continued refusal to give wage increases and other rights.

The company, also known as Zambowood, manufactures plywood, veneer and lumber. Zambowood is controlled by the imperialist corporation Boise Cascade and is the biggest private establishment in Zamboanga City. It employs 750 workers at the factory in Lumbayao and 650 others at its 65,000-hectare logging concession in Zamboanga del Sur.

For four months, the company had been refusing to give in to the union which was negotiating a new collective bargaining agreement (CBA). In the past three years, Zambowood took net profits of ₱75 million from overall sales of ₱400 million. The union's demands would mean only ₱1 million from the company in one year.

The firm also refused the union's proposal that company employes, most of whom live in rented shanties, be allowed to buy housing materials on installment at a 50 percent discount.

THIRD WORLD DEMANDS BLOCKED BY 2 SUPERPOWERS AT UNCTAD

As expected, the fifth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD V) held in Manila ended in failure. After 28 days of grandiose meetings and lavish receptions, of constant haggling, debating and scheming, nothing concrete or substantial for the interests of the Third World came out of it.

From beginning to end, the two superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union, sabotaged the conference. They arrogantly brushed aside Third World demands and did everything to confuse the issues, delay the proceedings and divide the members participating in the conference.

While mouthing support for the United Nations resolution calling for a "new international economic order", the two superpowers consistently opposed every measure that would help bring it to reality. They rejected even such limited measures as the creation of a body that would monitor policies of governments in relation to changes in the international economic structure.

Towards the end of the session, the U.S. imperialists even tried to divide the ranks of the Third World by insisting that the issue of oil be placed on the agenda. Trying to hide their own responsibility for the world economic crisis, the U.S. imperialists blamed the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) for the increase in oil prices and drop in production in the world today.

The Soviet social-imperialists, on the other hand, did nothing but scold the Third World countries for their refusal to join the Soviet bloc, claiming that their revisionist brand of "socialism" is the solution to the many problems of the Third World.

These hegemonists also tried to create confusion among the countries of the Third World by insisting on barring the delegates of Democratic Kampuchea from the conference. But they were soundly rebuffed by the overwhelming majority of the participating countries which stood firm for Kampuchea's participation.

Compromise with imperialism

Although the two superpowers are principally to blame for the failure of the conference, the weak and vacillating position of most of the ruling regimes in the Third World was another major factor that brought about UNCTAD V's unfortunate end.

These comprador-landlord governments are beholden to imperialism and social-imperialism in many ways. Essentially, they stand for compromise with imperialism, surrendering to it the initiative in restructuring the world economic order.

The program drafted at Arusha, Tanzania, for collective self-reliance and for greater participation in the world's trade and development reflects to a limited extent the just demands of the peoples and countries of the Third World. But the program stops short of calling for the one basic solution to the ills of these countries--the complete overthrow of imperialism.

It was the People's Republic of China which carried forward the anti-imperialist cause by proposing before the conference a resolution declaring that an essential factor in bringing about a new international economic order is the pulling out of all foreign troops and all foreign bases throughout the world.

Incidentally, the entire conference cost the Filipino people at least ₱80 million, proving to be another burden to their exploited and miserable plight under the U.S.-Marcos fascist dictatorship. A costly burden--that is how the Filipino people look at the UNCTAD session just ended.

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SOCIAL-IMPERIALISM AIMS TO TRAP POOR COUNTRIES OF THIRD WORLD

In the just-concluded session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Soviet social-imperialists blamed the countries of the Third World for their failure to join the Soviet bloc and follow what they prescribe as the "independent" and "non-capitalist path of development".

Unfortunately for the new tsars, fewer and fewer countries and peoples are willing to listen to them. Over the years, through concrete experiences, the real meaning of the "independent" and "non-capitalist" path has been exposed as nothing but subjection to Soviet social-imperialism, to its plunder and aggression.

Examples of imperialist exploitation by the Soviet Union have continued to pile up, contradicting its claim to proletarian internationalism and unmasking its desire to exploit the peoples of the world and contend with U.S. imperialism in exercising hegemony over the globe.

Out of these examples, a pattern emerges: the new tsars first entice countries to accept their economic "aid", then take hold of economic, and later, political power in these countries.

One such case is India. For several years, the Soviet Union has extended economic "aid" to India. It has trumpeted that this "aid" would help India industrialize by building its "public sector" which, in the social-imperialist scheme of things, is one of the "seeds of socialism" that would peacefully replace capitalism in India.

The Soviet offer looked attractive at first. Soviet loans appear easy to pay and even generous. The interest rate is 2.5 percent, which is way below the minimum 6.5 percent and standard 13 percent being charged by the Western imperialist banks. Moreover, these loans can be paid back in the local currency, in Indian rupees, and as has been mentioned, they can be used to develop state enterprises.

"Aid" and Soviet goods

But what the honeyed phrases of the Soviet social-imperialists try to cover up is that these loans are tied to purchases of Soviet goods, mostly industrial goods. India is required to spend all the money it receives from the Soviet government on goods from the Soviet Union. Furthermore, the prices of these goods are determined by trade agreements and not by the prevailing world market prices.

More often than not, the prices of goods bought from the Soviet Union are 20 to 30 percent higher than the world market price. In some cases, as in tractor spare parts, India buys the goods at three times the price at which these are sold to Eastern Europe. The price of nickel sold to India is double that in the European market.

On the other hand, India must pay for these loans by exporting numerous goods to the Soviet Union, mostly raw materials, at prices fixed by trade agreements. Ordinarily, these prices are 20 to 30 percent lower than world market prices.

A pattern of unequal trade has been established, which in essence is no different from the semicolonial trade that exists between U.S. imperialism and its subject countries. India, after several years on the Soviet-promoted "independent" and "non-capitalist" path, remains a mere exporter of raw materials and an importer of finished products. In addition, through trade agreements, India has become a victim of unfair pricing of its goods by the Soviet Union.

Direct investments

Besides, many of the state enterprises, which the Soviet social-imperialists establish in collaboration with the Indian bureaucrat comprador bourgeoisie, are not oriented towards self-reliant industrialization and fulfilling the needs of the Indian masses.

These firms, which are called "labor-intensive", merely process Soviet raw materials and then reexport the finished products to the Soviet Union. In other words, they serve only Soviet needs, and are tightly controlled by the Soviet government which supplies them with technology, engineers and even managers. Prime examples of these are the textile and electronic parts industries.

Similar to the "labor-intensive" industries which are being loudly praised to the skies by agents of the World Bank and other U.S. imperialist conduits, the Soviet version takes advantage of cheap local labor, while ensuring monopoly over the local sources of raw materials and preserving the country as a Soviet sphere of influence.

But it is not only in state enterprises that Soviet direct investments can be found. Increasingly, the Soviet Union has been putting up private joint stock enterprises or "joint ventures" in cooperation with the Indian comprador bourgeoisie. These are private capitalist firms, and like U.S. firms, they rip off the surplus value being produced by the Indian working class.

Soviet investments in private Indian industry are the best proof that India is not being helped towards a non-capitalist path of development, and that the real objective of Soviet social-imperialism is to contend with U.S. imperialism in exploiting and oppressing the Indian worker and other toiling classes.

Also, the Soviet promise to help India become self-reliant has turned to its opposite in reality. Today, India is ever deeper in debt, with no prospect of ever paying back what it owes.

"International division of labor"

India's experience with Soviet "aid" has been repeated in other countries like Egypt, Iraq and Cuba.

Before the Soviet social-imperialists were expelled from Egypt in the early 1970s, it was fast becoming a Soviet semicolony. In return for Soviet "aid" in constructing the Aswan Dam and for Soviet food grains, Egypt had to submit its entire cotton crop--its single largest export earner--to Soviet monopoly control.

Iraq, another country in the Middle East, is also virtually under the economic stranglehold of the Soviet Union. To pay back Soviet loans, it now has to sell nearly all of its oil to the Soviet Union at a price way below the world market price.

Cuba has remained basically a sugar economy, relying almost completely on the Soviet Union for manufactured goods and even some food items. This despite Cuba's claim of being a "socialist" country.

From these examples, one can say that Soviet "aid" is an instrument for exploiting Third World countries and peoples. It is a form of export of capital, through which the Soviet social-imperialists extract superprofits from the toiling peoples of the world.

Theoretically, the new tsars justify the neocolonial arrangement they are setting up in various countries as part of an "international division of labor". But this theory only means that some countries' role is to grow cotton and produce oil, while the so-called advanced, industrialized countries concentrate on heavy industry.

What is this but another version of the worn-out imperialist theory of "comparative advantage", which claims that the poor and backward countries will benefit more if they concentrate on producing one or two crops, in exchange for other products from the capitalist countries?

Or, how different is the Soviet theory from that British imperialist claim of old that "Britain is the workshop of the world"?

The countries and peoples of the Third World must beware of, and fight Soviet social-imperialism, just as they resist U.S. imperialism. To accept Soviet "aid" and to follow Soviet advice is tantamount to accepting further loss of independence and sinking deeper into the mire of imperialist exploitation.

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